



# Washington State Rail Plan

The Washington State Rail Plan will serve as a strategic blueprint for future public investment in the state's rail transportation system. It will provide an integrated plan for freight and passenger rail, including 5- and 20-year funding strategies, that meets federal and state requirements. The plan will inform the state Freight Mobility Plan; guide WSDOT as it develops strategic freight rail partnerships to support essential rail service; and establish priorities for determining which freight rail investments should receive public support. It will also guide Washington as it works with Oregon and British Columbia to implement intercity passenger rail service. WSDOT will release the final state rail plan by the end of 2013.

## Plan timeline

Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Fall 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2013	Summer 2013	Fall 2013
Final approval of detailed work plan from FRA	Vision, goals and objectives  Rail system inventory: baseline conditions and future forecast  Stakeholder interviews  Advisory committee meeting  Workshops	Rail system needs and opportunities  Improvement options: capital, operating, policy  Advisory committee meeting		Plan recommendations  Implementation plan  Advisory committee meeting  Regional workshops	Draft State Rail Plan  Feedback during formal comment period: letter, email, online comment form  Open house	Final State Rail Plan

## Progress-to-date

- System inventory/existing conditions analysis
- Demand and capacity analysis
- Needs assessment
- Stakeholder advisory committee meetings
- Stakeholder interviews
- Public workshops
- Project briefings

## Next steps

- Identify and evaluate capital projects, funding programs, operational improvements and policy changes to address those system needs and opportunities.

- Recommend priority actions to achieve vision and goals and create an implementation plan.
- Distribute the draft state rail plan for public review and comment in summer 2013.
- Finalize state rail plan by December 31, 2013.

## Opportunities for involvement

Rail transportation is dependent on many partnerships between government agencies, private industry and other stakeholders. The plan cannot be successfully implemented without strong support which makes collaboration necessary for a successful outcome. The plan will be a product of broad participation. We are connecting with stakeholders and members of the public in a variety of ways:

***Stakeholder interviews:*** The purpose of these brief interviews is for information gathering and to solicit perspectives on the existing rail system and identify significant issues and opportunities for the near and long term.

***Stakeholder Advisory Committee:*** The committee, comprised of individuals selected from multiple rail constituencies, will act as a sounding board as we proceed through development of the plan.

***Public meetings (workshops and open house):*** Three meetings were held at the beginning of the process and more will follow with the release of the draft state rail plan to solicit public input.

In addition, the project team will provide briefings to groups, send email updates and post updates online throughout the project.

## For more information

To learn more about the project, receive our updates by email or request a small group briefing, please visit our website at:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/staterailplan.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/staterailplan.htm) or contact:

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## Draft plan development

Timing	Work products	How will WSDOT use the information?	Opportunities for public participation
Winter 2013	Vision, goals and objectives	These elements communicate values and priorities. We will translate the vision, goals and objectives into evaluation criteria that will help identify and prioritize plan recommendations.	Project information available on our website and via email updates.
	Baseline conditions and future forecasts	We will use this information to define rail transportation system strengths and challenges.	Written comments (letter, email) are always welcome. Feedback will be incorporated into technical reports, which will serve as the building blocks of the state rail plan.
Spring 2013	Needs and opportunities	We will define the set of problems and demands that will be the focus of plan recommendations.	There will be one advisory committee meeting in the winter and another in the spring.
	Improvement options	We will identify and evaluate capital projects, funding programs, operational improvements and policy changes to address system needs and opportunities.	Project briefings available by request.

## Draft and final plan

Timing	Work products	How will WSDOT use the information?	Opportunities for public participation
Summer/ Fall 2013	Draft rail plan, including implementation plan	We will summarize the results of the planning process and identify recommended priorities to achieve vision, goals and objectives. Recommendations may include capital projects, funding programs, operational improvements or policy changes.	The draft plan will be revised in response to comments prior to final publication.
December 2013	Publish final Washington State Rail Plan	Plan recommendations will inform our work program.  Findings will be incorporated into the Washington Freight Mobility Plan.	There are lots of ways to stay in touch with the rail program after completion of the state plan, including website, email list serve, monthly newsletter and program briefings.